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General Schofield. Among the Massachusetts members are Hon. James Russell Lowell, President M. E. Gates of Amherst, Thomas B. Fitz, Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale, Rev. Phillips Brooks and Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WAR.

MRS. M. E. BLAKE.

There is such lack of common sense in continuing as a means of settlement of difficulty between nations, what has been long ago dropped with contumely among individuals, that it is hard to comprehend the stubborn adhesion still given to war. In the days when the fists or the sword were the only arbitrators for insult or injury, it was rational that Governments should follow the same line of knock-down armament. But the man who strikes or kills another now on any other provocation than that of self-defence, is regarded as a criminal, dangerous to society and punished accordingly. Fisticuffs and the duel have been replaced by trial by jury and the arbitration of law. Why should the duel between hundreds of thousands be considered glorious, while between two individuals it is crime? It is no more "necessary" as a solution in one case than in the other. The settlement of the Alabama claims showed that.

To say that the spirit is too deeply seated ever to bear elimination from the affairs of the world is to beg a very serious question. In a day that has already solved, or is gradually reaching the solution of so many bitter problems, there is no reason to fear for this one, if only public opinion will take upon itself the task of analyzing the rationale of the evil. Slavery has gone, which used to be regarded as almost a divine institution; the gulf between wealth and poverty is being bridged over from both sides; education is slowly gaining in the struggle against ignorance; the practical lessons of Christianity are being learned in the lives of men. Shall the one which comes as command and injunction, "Thou shalt not kill," go unchallenged? Shall the most direct protest against the principle of Christ's teaching pass still current in a world which calls itself Christian?

A recent article goes on to say: "To the hope of manhood be it said that there are yet many men in every country who love 'the ancient game of war' as the sailor loves the sea or the poet his singing." One might almost as well quote to the hope of manhood the unhappy instincts which turn to rapine, to lust, to hatred and anger and revenge. Whatever of strength, of heroism, of perseverance has been made known to its owner in the smoke and shock of the battle-field has been in 'spite of such surroundings, not because of them. The delight in dealing death, the fierce passions which rise like frenzy in the soul of the soldier and crush out humanity from his heart are no more to be proud of than any other ignoble force which for a time blinds reason and reduces its victim to the level of the beast of prey. It is the curse instead of the hope of manhood that such feeling still exists to threaten the progress of the race.

As circumstances yet hold in the environment of society war must exist for a time, but—O please God!—not for always, nor even for long. The right of might is too available a force to be given up readily, and it is the duty of wisdom to hold itself prepared to resist aggression by blows, when other measures fail. But never for this is the necessity to be less regretted, or the evil to be fostered, or the mantle of glory left to hide the skeleton it covers.

Never for this is the conscience of each man and each woman to cease arraigning before the bar of justice the sins committed in its name; and to hold before the imagination of the young as well as the reason of the old the true principles of peace and arbitration as the light of the world, instead of the false gods of war and retaliation. —*Boston Journal*.

THE BRAVEST OF BATTLES.

JOAQUIN MILLER.

The bravest battle that ever was fought,
Shall I tell you where and when?
On the maps of the world you'll find it not;
'Twas fought by the mothers of men.

Nay, not with cannon or battle shot,
With sword or nobler pen;
Nay, not with eloquent word or thought
From mouths of wonderful men.

But deep in a walled-up woman's heart —
Of woman that would not yield,
But bravely, silently bore her part—
Lo! there is the battle-field.

No marshalling troop, no bivouac song,
No banner to gleam and wave!
But oh, these battles, they last so long—
From babyhood to the grave.

THE PENSION BUREAU.

Commissioner Green B. Raum, of the Bureau of Pensions, states in his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior that there were on June 30, 1890, 537,944 pensioners borne upon the rolls, and classified as follows: Army invalid pensioners, 392,809; army widows, minor children and dependent relatives, 104,456; navy invalid pensioners, 5,274; navy widows, minor children and dependent relatives, 2,460; survivors of the war of 1812, 413; widows of the soldiers of the war of 1812, 8,610; survivors of the Mexican War, 17,158; widows of soldiers of the Mexican War, 6,764; total, 537,944. There were 66,637 original claims allowed during the year, being 14,716 more original claims than were allowed during the fiscal year 1889, and 6,385 more than were allowed during the fiscal year 1888. The amount of the first payments in these 66,637 original cases amounted to \$32,478,841.18, being \$11,036,492.05 more than the first payments on the original claims allowed during the fiscal year 1889, and \$10,179,225.72 more than the first payments on the original claims allowed during the fiscal year 1888.

The Commissioner estimates that there were on July 1, 1890, 1,246,089 survivors of the War of the Rebellion. There have been received in the Pension Office 460,282 claims to Sept. 30, 1890, under the Disability Pension act of June 27, 1890. About 50 per cent. of these claims have been filed by persons who already have claims on file in the office. The average annual value of each pension at the close of the year was \$133.94. The aggregate annual value of pensions is \$72,052,143.49. The amount paid for pensions during the year was \$105,528,180.38, an increase in amount over the previous year of \$17,253,067.10. The total amount disbursed by the agents for all purposes was \$106,493,890.19. Since 1861, 1,353,190 pension claims have been filed and 855,758 allowed.